

threat that can be accomplished quickly and without the controversy associated with a national missile defense system.

There are few issues more important than reducing the risks posed by nuclear weapons. For the past half century, the world has lived with these weapons, and it is easy to underestimate the huge threat they represent. Yet it is critical that we remain vigilant and do everything in our power to reduce that threat. The fate of the world, quite literally, is at stake.

I urge my colleagues to support this simple but powerful measure.

STATEMENTS ON SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 142—EX- PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD BE AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN THE UNITED NATIONS WORLD CONFERENCE ON RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMI- NATION, XENOPHOBIA AND RE- LATED INTOLERANCE

Mr. DODD submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 142

Whereas racial discrimination, ethnic conflict, and xenophobia persist in various parts of the world despite continuing efforts by the international community;

Whereas in recent years the world has witnessed campaigns of ethnic cleansing;

Whereas racial minorities, migrants, asylum seekers, and indigenous peoples are persistent targets of intolerance and violence;

Whereas millions of human beings continue to encounter discrimination solely due to their race, skin color, or ethnicity;

Whereas early action is required to prevent the growth of ethnic hatred and to diffuse potential violent conflicts;

Whereas the problems associated with racism will be thoroughly explored at the United Nations World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, to be held in Durban, South Africa from August 31 to September 7, 2001;

Whereas this conference will review progress made in the fight against racism and consider ways to better ensure the application of existing standards to combat racism;

Whereas the conference will increase the level of awareness about the scourge of racism and formulate concrete recommendations on ways to increase the effectiveness of the United Nations in dealing with racial issues;

Whereas the conference will review the political, historical, economic, social, cultural, and other factors leading to racism and racial discrimination and formulate concrete recommendations to further action-oriented national, regional, and international measures to combat racism;

Whereas the conference will draw up concrete recommendations to ensure that the United Nations has the resources to actively combat racism and racial discrimination; and

Whereas the United States is a member of the United Nations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United States should attend and participate fully in the United Nations World Conference on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance;

(2) the delegation sent to the conference by the United States should reflect the racial and geographic diversity of the United States; and

(3) the President should support the conference and should act in such a way as to facilitate substantial United States involvement in the conference.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the possibility that the United States will not send a full delegation to the United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance. I believe this is both a worthwhile and important endeavor, and I am greatly troubled by the prospect that the United States may not attend.

According to a Washington Post article last week, the Bush Administration's reservations about attending the conference stem from concerns regarding certain proposed items on the agenda. The Administration's concerns are legitimate ones, but it is my belief that the Conference organizers are so anxious to have high level U.S. participation in Durban that contentious issues can be resolved prior to the August event, provided the United States signals its genuine interest in participating. Clearly the overarching objectives of the conference are of great importance to the American people and to peoples throughout the planet. As members of the global community, and as a global leader and vocal advocate for human rights, it would be tragic if the United States could not find a way to support the conference's honorable ambitions.

I do not need to list for my colleagues all the many injustices that occur each day, worldwide, that can be attributed to racism and ignorance, racism's frequent collaborator. As we all know, despite the best efforts of the international community, the effects of racial discrimination, ethnic conflict, and xenophobia continue to threaten and victimize people the world over. We have seen the violent devastations of racism in the former Yugoslavia, in Indonesia, and sadly, at home in America as well. The hateful term "ethnic cleansing" is now all too often used to describe violent international conflicts, and, increasingly, international humanitarian relief efforts focus on the tides of refugees fleeing persecution based on skin color, religion, and ethnic heritage. The task that lays before all nations therefore, is to peer deeply into the corners of our societies that we find most distasteful and hurtful, and to shine some light honestly onto the devastation that racism has inflicted.

In my view, the United Nations World Conference on Racism is the place to begin this difficult, but crucial process of racial introspection. It is not enough for the United States to pay lip service to the ideals of racial equality.

We should attend this conference, and lend our full support to this worthy cause. I believe that in the conference we have a unique opportunity to work with other nations, our neighbors and partners, to begin the process of addressing the many crimes caused by racism, and the underlying societal causes of racism itself. This conference has the power to raise awareness about these issues, to form international consensus on best to combat racism, and to educate the international community on the ravages of racially motivated persecution and conflict.

It is my hope, that the Bush Administration will conclude that our presence at the United Nations Conference on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance is vital and appropriate, and will work to ensure that problems related to U.S. participation are resolved before the conference convenes next month. I would also hope that the President would designate Secretary of State Colin Powell to lead a racially and geographically diverse delegation from the United States to the conference in South Africa. Toward that end, I am submitting a resolution which urges the active participation of the United States in the conference, and it is my hope that my colleagues will support this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 143—EX- PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE DE- VELOPMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS ON VETERANS' CON- TRIBUTIONS TO THE COUNTRY AND THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 11 THROUGH NOVEMBER 17, 2001, AS "NATIONAL VETERANS AWARE- NESS WEEK"

Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. DODD, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. DORGAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. KERRY, Mr. INOUE, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MILLER, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. REID, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BYRD, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. BROWBACK, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. THURMOND, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CARPER, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, and Mr. BOND) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 143

Whereas tens of millions of Americans have served in the Armed Forces of the United States during the past century;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of Americans have given their lives while serving in the Armed Forces during the past century;